

Regular Meeting
Monday, January 04, 2016
Bloomington Civic Plaza
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431-3027

- 1 **CALL TO ORDER- 7 PM** Mayor Winstead called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Present: Councilmembers C. Abrams, J. Baloga, T. Busse, A. Carlson,
D. Lowman and J. Oleson.
- 2 **INTRODUCTORY**
- 2.1 **FLAG PRESENTATION** Mayor Winstead led the audience in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
- 2.2 **The Oath of Office
(Swearing In) for the
Re-Elected Council
Members** Requested Action: Oath of Office to re-elected Mayor and Council members.
- The oath of office was performed by City Clerk Janet Lewis to the following re-elected Council members: Mayor Gene Winstead, Tim Busse, Andrew Carlson and Dwayne Lowman.
- 2.3 **Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day Proclamation** Requested Action: Mayor read and present the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Proclamation.
- Mayor Winstead read and presented a proclamation declaring January 18, 2016, as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to Human Rights Commissioner Jared Leese.
- 2.4 **Outgoing
Commissioner
Recognition** Requested Action: Recognize the outgoing City Council Advisory Commission members for their years of service on various commissions.
- Mayor Winstead presented plaques to the following advisory commissioners to recognize their years of service:
- Gordie Holm: Parks, Arts & Recreation Commission (6 years)
Peter Moe: Parks, Arts & Recreation Commission (6 years)
Dale Hildestad: Local Board of Appeal & Equalization (9 years)
Dwight Dahlen: Local Board of Appeal & Equalization (9 years)
- 3 **CONSENT BUSINESS**
- 3.1 **Order Feasibility Study
for Westbound on-ramp
to I-494 at East Bush
Lake Road** Requested Action: Authorize the City Engineer to prepare a Feasibility Study for the westbound on-ramp to 494 at East Bush Lake Road (City Project 2015-201).
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to order a Feasibility Study for the westbound on-ramp to I-494 at East Bush Lake Road (City Project 2015-201).

- 3.2 Modify Terms of Port Authority Board Commissioners** Requested Action: Adopt a resolution approving the modification of terms for the Board of Commissioners of the Port Authority of the City of Bloomington.
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to adopt a resolution approving the modification of terms of the Board of Commissioners of the Port Authority of the City of Bloomington as presented in the agenda item. (R-2016-1)
- 3.3 MIECHV2 Agreement with MN Department Health** Requested Action: Approve the new Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV2) Program Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to approve the MIECHV2 Program Agreement with the MDH as presented in the agenda item.
- 3.4 Approve Plans and Specification For 2016-203 SRTS Jefferson Area Improvements Project** Requested Action: Adopt a resolution approving the plans and specifications for the 2016-203 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project which includes pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements to improve access and safety and to encourage walking and biking to the Jefferson High School, Hubert Olson Middle School, and Hubert Olson Elementary School campuses.
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to adopt a resolution approving the plans and specifications for the 2016-203 SRTS Jefferson Area Improvements Project as presented in the agenda item. (R-2016-2)
- 3.5 Acknowledgment Modifications to 2016 PMP Overlay Streets** Requested Action: Acknowledge receipt of the updated list of streets to be included in the 2016-102 Pavement Management Program (PMP) Overlay project.
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to acknowledge receipt of the updated list of streets to be included in the 2016-102 PMP Overlay Project as presented in the agenda item.
- 3.6 Amended 2016 Compensation Plan** Requested Action: Approve the Amended 2016 Compensation Plan for the City of Bloomington.
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to approve the Amended 2016 Compensation Plan for the City of Bloomington per the revised version distributed to Council the day of the meeting.
- 3.7 Resolution Support for 2015 Minnesota SRTS Infrastructure Grant Application** Requested Action: Adopt a Resolution of Support for the request for a 2015 Minnesota Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Grant for the Safe Routes to School project at the Olson School Campus Driveway on West 102nd Street.
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to adopt a resolution of support for a SRTS Infrastructure Grant for SRTS safety enhancements at the school campus driveway on West 102nd Street for Olson Middle and Olson Elementary Schools. (R-2016-3)

- 3.8 Meeting Minutes City Council-Approval** Requested Action: Approve the following City Council Meeting minutes: August 24 (Study) and December 7 (Regular).
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to approve the August 24, 2015 (Study) and December 7, 2015 (Regular) Meeting minutes as presented.
- 3.9 South Metro Training Joint Powers Agreement Amendment** Requested Action: Approve an amendment to an existing Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) of which the City is already a member. This amendment will allow the execution of a construction project to expand the *South Metro Public Safety Training Facility*. This project has been approved by the JPA Board of Directors and the participating entities.
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to approve an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement for the South Metro Public Safety Training Facility as presented in the agenda item.
- 3.10 Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the Special General Election** Requested Action: Adopt a resolution deeming individuals as eligible to serve as election judges for the 2016 Special General Election.
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to adopt a resolution appointing election judges for the February 9, 2016, Special General Election as presented in the agenda item. (R-2016-4)
- 4 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**
- 4.1 Response to Prior Meeting's Public Comments** City Manager Jamie Verbrugge reported he provided a written response to the commenter at the last Council meeting and read the response he sent Sally Ness regarding her questions and concerns relating to the Dar Al Farooq Youth & Family Center (AFYFC) at 8201 Park Avenue South. He said those items pertained to AFYFC's lack of a licensed food service manager, vehicles parking in fire lanes at AFYFC, and the City's enforcement of Type III vehicles parking on Park Avenue.
- 4.2 Public Comment** Mayor Winstead declared the public comment period open for anyone wishing to address the City Council on matters not on tonight's agenda.
- Speaker #1: Sally Ness, 8127 Oakland Avenue South
She began her comments by referencing a letter dated August 2014. In 2015, she said AFYFC didn't have a certified food manager before starting their summer feeding program. She presented a copy of the City's Notice of Corrections. She again asked how AFYFC is allowed to serve food from their building without having a certified food manager on site. She presented information from the Minnesota Department of Health. She reported there were two food programs at AFYFC on August 20, 2014. She said she couldn't find any data indicating AFYFC had trained anyone on food safety. She showed photos of the food conditions at AFYFC. She questioned how this was allowed to happen. She said any trained food manager would have known about the molded and out of date food. Regarding Type III vehicles, she said drivers of those vehicles know where they can park and they shouldn't be parked on their streets. She said a semi-truck not related to the use of the building can't park there.
- Winstead requested the City Manager respond to any "new" items presented by Ness and report back at the next Council meeting.

**5 LICENSING DIVISION:
PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**5.1 Currency Exchange
Renewal**

Requested Action: Approve the Currency Exchange license renewal application for Xchange of America, LLC dba Xchange of America at 218 East Broadway.

Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to approve the Currency Exchange license renewal for Xchange of America expiring December 31, 2016.

**6 DEVELOPMENT
BUSINESS: PUBLIC
HEARINGS**

**6.1 MOAC Land Holdings,
LLC Mall of America
Major PDP Revision**

Requested Action: In Case 10966A-15, approve the Major Revision to the Preliminary Development Plan to expand the area included and modify the uses, design and phasing for Phases I, II and III of the Mall of America (MOA) subject to the conditions listed in the staff report.

Planning Manager Glen Markegard presented the staff report. He said MOA will be bringing final development plans to the Council this summer. His slide presentation included the following: Primary revisions to the MOA Preliminary Development Plan (PDP), the existing PDP, the proposed PDP for Phase II and Phase IIB, size comparisons of 2013 PDP vs. 2016 PDP, Phase II use comparisons, Phase IIB conceptual, Phase IIB parking ramp and artist space, Lindau Lane & 24th Avenue, Phase IIB pedestrian circulation, flexibility requested, and parking. Both the Planning Commission and staff recommend approval of the amended PDP. He said a representative from MOA was available for questions.

Council comments/inquiries:

With regard to the parking, Winstead said the entrance and egress of the parking is what needs more management.

Busse asked how the notion of two ramps vs. one ramp affects the cost per parking space. Markegard didn't have that number but said building over American Boulevard as was proposed earlier would drive the cost.

Community Development Director Larry Lee said these ramps, even if there are two of them, are so large the number of ramps doesn't affect the cost of parking. What really drives the cost of parking is how much of that parking is underground. He said it's cheaper to construct parking above ground. Any parking that is provided on a structure over an internal or external street also drives up the cost. He said the difference between one and two ramps in itself is not a significant driver of cost. It how that parking space is structured. He said the number of parking spaces has always been an important issue for the Mall. How much parking is required at the Mall has always been a significant area of discussion between the City and the Mall. Ramp parking costs between \$20,000-25,000 per space.

Winstead said the City has lots of history for a major mixed-use development at the Mall. He said the parking demands are pretty well founded and an adequate amount has always been provided. It's the access that can be problematic. Lee said the Adjoining Lands property has always provided a safety valve for the parking.

Baloga asked if the bridge over American Boulevard goes to lands that are not being considered as part of Phase II or Phase III at this time. Regarding the skyway connection, Markegard showed what is considered part of Phase II of the Mall located south of the former Thunderbird Hotel. Baloga asked why the cogeneration facility is off the table now. Markegard said it's no longer part of the Preliminary Development Plan. He said locating a central energy plant within South Loop was a major point of discussion. It was determined to not be economical for various reasons.

Regarding the north pedestrian crossing at 24th Avenue and Lindau Lane and others, Abrams asked if the length of the cross time changes at all with traffic patterns and seasonality or does the City have the capacity to control it but isn't currently doing that. Markegard asked City Engineer Shelly Pederson to respond to that question.

Pederson said staff has studied the crosswalks in the area and they're timed based on how they're used. The City hasn't changed them seasonally but they're monitored. She said most of the time, it's pretty steady. They don't change based on traffic patterns.

Abrams asked if a full backup of traffic occurs on 24th Avenue to 494 since the City is increasing the number of people in this area and is encouraging them to walk rather than drive. Pederson agreed the traffic stacks up northerly and said adding the crosswalk and more time to cross will make it backup even further. She said it's working today but it won't in the future so staff is not recommending it be put across at that location. Abrams said if it's currently working now but is predicted not to work in the future, asked if there will be more traffic backed up to the north even with no north crosswalk. Pederson said having the two large parking ramps separated moves the cars over along American Boulevard to the other ramp. This plan helps spread out the traffic. She staff will continue to monitor the wayfinding signage in the area and will tweak it as needed.

Winstead said as the area to the northeast comes online, eight lanes of traffic will need to be crossed. He said other than surface level crossings will need to be considered. The City will need to keep working with the MOA to consider crossings not at street level. Pederson showed the grade-separated crossings for the future.

Oleson asked if Phase IIB will be operational in 2017 and 2018. Markegard said construction could potentially be underway in early 2017. Oleson asked about the number of hotel rooms have been added since the Radisson Blu. Markegard replied five hotels were under construction in 2015 or approximately 1,000 rooms. He said that doesn't include the Marriott AC, which is just starting construct. That would be the sixth hotel. He said a couple of other hotels are on the drawing board. He said some of those hotel rooms are replacing hotel rooms that were lost with construction of the runway. He said the City needs to be planning in terms of the impact all of these hotel rooms will have on the future. He said the City has to honor its existing hotels elsewhere. He asked how the City looks at hotels as a whole. Markegard said the City tracks occupancy levels and number of rooms but the market drives the number of applications the City receives. The Code doesn't require a market study before a developer builds a hotel or any other land use. Where public subsidy is involved, the City has greater input. Oleson asked if there was some type of structural provision in the ramp so that it could be retrofit to accommodate driverless cars someday.

Carlson said there has been a lot of discussion regarding the development intensity and on the building location and massing. He asked if the sidewalks in South Loop will be wide enough to accommodate groups of individuals walking to the light rail station. He said more time should be spent making contacts in the neighborhood. He asked if the City is setting itself up for success, as people in this area will want to walk. He asked if the plan before the Council has considered pedestrian accessibility. Markegard replied staff is spending a lot of time on that. He said the sidewalk width along American Boulevard will be 12 feet and along Lindau Lane 8 feet. He said they are talking about grade-separated crossings with Phase IIC. Carlson asked how that infrastructure will be paid for. Markegard replied that will be open for negotiations. He said it is unknown how much developer participation there will be.

Lowman asked about the Mall’s thinking regarding how that space will look if and when driverless cars come into use.

Speaker #1: Kurt Hagen, Mall of America

He said it’s unlikely the new ramps in future phases would come down. He said it’s more likely some of the existing ramps such as the East Parking Ramp could come down. He said driverless cars will come but as to when and at what impact. He doesn’t see parking being cut in half 5-10 years from now. He said driverless cars might impact Phase IIC in the future.

Lowman asked if the Mall was concerned about not having groceries or basic needs such as a Target in close proximity to luxury/high rent housing. Hagen replied there’s a desire for it. They’d like to see a Trader Joes, etc. He said the demand needs to be demonstrated to those grocers and it will grow to the point that the district will be able to support a grocer.

Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Oleson, and all voting aye, to approve the Major Revision to the Preliminary Development Plan to expand the area included and modify the uses, design and phasing for Phases I, II and III of the Mall of America for MOAC Land Holdings, LLC, subject to the conditions listed in the staff report.

No public testimony was received.

Closed Public Comment Period

Mayor Winstead asked if anyone else wished to address the Council or the public comment period would be closed. No one came forward so it was closed.

7 TRANSPORTATION & UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS: PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

8 ORDINANCES: PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9 OTHER: PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

10 ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

10.1 City Council Policy & Issue Update

City Manager Verbrugge had nothing to report.

- 10.2 Appointment of 2016 External Auditors** Requested Action: Appoint Redpath and Company as the City's External Auditor for the fiscal year ending 2015.
- Winstead asked where Redpath is at in the process with the City. He said this contract has a 5%+ dollar amount escalator. His thinking was as they continue to audit the City, it should get easier and more efficient for them but yet the cost is climbing and that escalator is not exactly favorable to the City.
- Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler said Fiscal Year 2015 is the last year of their contract. Staff will go out for Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Fiscal Year 2016 services performed.
- Motion was made by Abrams, seconded by Baloga, and all voting aye, to appoint Redpath and Company as the City's External Auditor for the Fiscal Year ending 2015.
- 10.3 Approve Appointment of Bond Counsel** Requested Action: Approve Kennedy and Graven, Chartered as the City's 2016 Bond Counsel.
- Motion was made by Abrams, seconded by Baloga, and all voting aye, to approve Kennedy and Graven, Chartered for the 2016 bond counsel.
- 10.4 Designation of Official Depositories for 2016** Requested Action: Designate the following four banks listed as the City's depositories for 2016.
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, to approve the following depositories for calendar year 2016: U.S. Bank, BMO Harris Bank, PMA Financial Network, Inc. (4M Fund), and Wells Fargo – Art Center Trust. Motion passed 6-0-1 (Lowman abstaining).
- 10.5 Approve City Municipal Advisor** Requested Action: Approve Springsted, Inc. as the City's 2016 public municipal advisor.
- Motion was made by Abrams, seconded by Baloga, and all voting aye, to approve Springsted, Inc. as the City's public municipal advisor for 2016.
- Oleson asked if staff reviews all of these consultants prior to making these recommendations.
- Verbrugge replied staff will provide Council with a follow-up on the City's purchasing policy regarding the selection of professional service providers.
- 10.6 Designate Official Newspaper** Requested Action: Designate an official newspaper for publication of public notices in 2016.
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to designate the Bloomington Sun Current Newspaper as the City's official newspaper for the publication of public notices in 2016.
- 10.7 Acting Mayor Appointments** Requested Action: Appoint a Council member(s) to serve as Acting Mayor for 2016.
- Winstead explained Council members will be appointed to serve 4-month terms as Acting Mayor in 2016 and 2017.

Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Carlson, and all voting aye, to appoint the following Council members as Acting Mayor for 2016: Busse (January-April), Baloga (May-August), and Abrams (September-December). For 2017: Carlson (January-April), Oleson (May-August), and Lowman (September-December).

10.8 Council Secretary Appointment

Requested Action: Appoint Barbara Clawson* as Secretary to the City Council for a term of 1/1/16 to 1/29/16.

Motion was made by Abrams, seconded by Baloga, and all voting aye, to appoint Barbara Clawson as Council Secretary from 1/1/16 – 1/29/16.

*(*Ms. Clawson will be retiring on January 29, 2016, so a new secretary will need to be appointed effective February 1, 2016.)*

10.9 Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau Appointments

Requested Action: Appoint three one-year terms expiring December 31, 2016 on the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau (BCVB).

Motion was made by Carlson, seconded by Oleson, and all voting aye, to reappoint Mayor Winstead, Jack Baloga and Larry Lee to three one-year terms on the BCVB Board of Directors expiring December 31, 2016.

10.10 Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Appointment

Requested Action: Appoint a two-year term expiring December 31, 2017, on the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Motion was made by Oleson, seconded by Lowman, and all voting aye, to reappoint Tim Busse to a two-year term on the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors expiring December 31, 2017.

10.11 Bloomington Fire Department Relief Association Appointment

Requested Action: Appoint Bloomington Fire Chief Ulie Seal, Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler and a City Council member as an ex-officio member on the 2016 Bloomington Fire Department Relief Association (BFDRA) Board of Trustees.

Motion was made by Busse, seconded by Carlson, and all voting aye, to reappoint Fire Chief Ulie Seal, Lori Economy-Scholler and Dwayne Lowman as an ex-officio member on the 2016 BFDRA Board of Trustees.

10.12 Suburban Rate Authority (SRA) Appointments

Requested Action: Adopt a resolution designating the Director and Alternate Director to the Suburban Rate Authority (SRA) for 2016.

Motion was made by Abrams, seconded by Oleson, and all voting aye, to adopt a resolution designating Deputy Director Jim Gates as Director and Utilities Superintendent Bob Cockriel as Alternate Director on the SRA for 2016. (R-2016-5)

10.13 I-35W Solutions Alliance Appointments

Requested Action: Appoint three member(s) to serve three one-year terms on the I-35W Solutions Alliance expiring December 31, 2016.

Motion was made by Carlson, seconded by Busse, and all voting aye, to reappoint Jon Oleson, Public Works Director Karl Keel, and Tim Busse as the Alternate to one-year terms on the I-35W Solutions Alliance expiring December 31, 2016.

- 10.14 US 169 Corridor Coalition Representatives Appointment**
- Requested Action: Appoint a Council member, a staff member, and alternates to one-year terms expiring December 31, 2016, on the US Hwy. 169 Corridor Coalition.
- Motion was made by Busse, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to reappoint Andrew Carlson (Jack Baloga as Alternate) and Deputy Public Works Director Jim Gates (Public Works Director Karl Keel as Alternate) to one-year terms on the US Hwy. 169 Corridor Coalition expiring December 31, 2016.
- 10.15 I-494 Corridor Commission Appointment**
- Requested Action: Appoint a Council member, a staff representative, and an alternate to a one-year term expiring December 31, 2016, on the I-494 Corridor Commission.
- Motion was made by Oleson, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to reappoint Jack Baloga (Tim Busse as Alternate) and Planning Manager Glen Markegard to one-year terms expiring December 31, 2016, on the I-494 Corridor Commission.
- 10.16 Riverview Corridor Study Policy Advisory Committee Appointment**
- Requested Action: Appoint a Council member to represent Bloomington on the Riverview Corridor Study Policy Advisory Committee and a staff representative to the Technical Advisory Committee for 2016.
- Motion was made by Oleson, seconded by Lowman, and all voting aye, to reappoint Tim Busse to the Policy Advisory Committee and Port Authority Administrator Schane Rudlang to the Technical Advisory Committee of the Riverview Corridor Study for 2016.
- 10.17 Hwy 169 Mobility Study Policy Advisory Committee Appointment**
- Requested Action: Appoint a City Council member and a staff representative as the alternate on the US Hwy. 169 Mobility Study Policy Advisory Committee.
- Both Carlson and Abrams expressed a desire to serve on this committee.
- Motion was made by Busse, seconded by Carlson, and all voting aye, to appoint Cynthia Abrams and Deputy Public Works Director Jim Gates as the Alternate on the US Hwy. 169 Mobility Study Policy Advisory Committee for 2016.
- 10.18 Parks, Art, and Recreation Commission Appointments**
- Requested Action: Appoint three adults to three-year terms on the Parks, Art and Recreation Commission expiring on December 31, 2018.
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Carlson, and all voting aye, to put the following names into nomination for appointment to the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission: David Benson, Patrick Martin, James McCarthy, and Andrew Robinson. Applicants to be contacted regarding interview times with the Council.
- 10.19 Local Board Of Appeal And Equalization Appointment**
- Requested Action: Appoint three applicants to two-year terms on the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization expiring December 31, 2017.
- Motion was made by Baloga, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to reappoint Clay Todd and appoint Bradley Moore and Andrew Robinson to two-year terms on the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization expiring December 31, 2017.

- 10.20 Advisory Board of Health Appointments** Requested Action: Appoint two “providers” to two-year terms expiring December 31, 2017, and one “consumer” to an unexpired term ending December 31, 2016 on the Advisory Board of Health.
- Motion was made by Abrams, seconded by Baloga, and all voting aye, to reappoint Satbir Brar and Cindy McKenzie as “providers” to two-year terms expiring December 31, 2017, and appoint Patrick Martin to a one-year unexpired “consumer” term expiring December 31, 2016 on the Advisory Board of Health.
- 10.21 Housing And Redevelopment Authority Appointments** Requested Action: Appoint one applicant to a five-year term expiring December 31, 2020 on the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA).
- Motion was made by Carlson, seconded by Baloga, and all voting aye, to reappoint Nathan Coulter to a five-year term on the Housing and Redevelopment Authority expiring December 31, 2020.
- 10.22 Human Rights Commission Appointments** Requested Action: Appoint one adult to a two-year term expiring December 31, 2017, two adults to fill two one-year unexpired terms expiring December 31, 2016, and one youth appointment to a one-year term expiring August 31, 2016 on the Human Rights Commission.
- Motion was made by Lowman, seconded by Oleson, and all voting aye, to reappoint Dennis Kane to a two-year adult term expiring December 31, 2017 and appoint Savannah Salato to a one-year youth term expiring August 31, 2016 on the Human Rights Commission.
- Motion was made by Oleson, seconded by Carlson, and all voting aye, to put the following names into nomination for two one-year appointments: Xavier Bicott, Maureen Carlson and Julia Tate. Applicants to be contacted regarding interview times with the Council.
- 11 ADJOURN** Mayor Winstead asked the Council to share their desires and concerns for 2016. He said one area in which the Council wants to see some activity in 2016 is the neighborhood commercial centers.
- Oleson suggested changing “neighborhood revitalization” to “neighborhood support” when referring to what Council would like to see done in neighborhoods. While his district contains the oldest housing in the city, he said not all of it needs housing or landscaping revitalization. He said in addition to the physical needs, Council should talk about how it can support changing neighborhoods with regard to age groups and backgrounds, etc.
- Winstead supported using the word “support” vs. “revitalization.”
- Baloga said the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) has been assigned the task of Neighborhood Centers, which is his top item for 2016. He commented there is a lot of obsolescence in Bloomington’s industrial areas due to low ceiling heights, which causes the City to issue permits for other alternative uses. He said the City needs to look at its industrial areas. Determine if there are pockets where renovation should be encouraged that could involve some zoning changes. Regarding arts and energy, he was pleased to see the Mall of America is continuing to look at the arts. He recently met with a group of developers that are focused in all aspects of the arts. They’re interested in creating an artist environment in Bloomington.

Baloga will contact the City Manager's office to schedule a meeting between this developer, the City Manager, and key City staff to hear what the developer has done in other cities to determine the City's level of interest. He also requested consideration of an environmental commission be kept at the top of the list.

Winstead said there needs to be some discussion about that.

Carlson said the community center needs to be a top priority and asked about the kick-off meeting. Verbrugge said he expects the Hyland Greens Task Force to wrap up at end of January; at which time, staff will look to begin scheduling the Community Center Task Force meetings. Carlson said the HRA's work focusing on neighborhoods and commercial corridors is moving forward. He said it would be good if the data from last year's business survey could be put in terms regarding what role the Council can play in supporting some of those ideas and how they're programmed. It would be good for the City to move on some initiatives regarding its industrial space.

Abrams said this may be the time for the Council to decide if a commission that addresses environmental issues would add value to its work, much like the old Natural and Historic Resources Commission did years ago. Regarding community engagement, she'd like the City to review where it's at with the charge and charters of its commissions and whether or not there are any gaps that can be identified through the citizen survey or other public feedback. Determine if any gaps can be identified regarding how to further involve the public, as the number of commission applications received this year was down. She said the community plays an important role and must be engaged

Lowman said the City has already come a long way in working on "neighborhood support." He said the Council has been meeting with the School Board and that needs to continue. He believes the City has taken a tremendous step forward in the community engagement process but staff needs to continue working on that. He is interested in a sustainability/ environmental commission, a future organics recycling program, and a review of the City's industrial areas. He wants Bloomington to be more sustainable. He is also interested in interconnectedness -- how the City is using the Internet to connect with the community. He's interested in youth and how they're affected by smoking in places like apartment buildings, etc.

Busse said there is a limited amount of human and financial resources available for everything the Council wants staff to do. He'd like to see an organizational assessment -- what's on the "stop doing" list that will allow staff and financial resources to be used on other things. He said it would be a worthwhile organizational practice to look internally to see what items/ services should not be continued.

Winstead said those are some of the Council's thoughts heading into 2016.

He adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Barbara Clawson
Council Secretary